

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT:ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN'S MEETING WITH THE
UNHCR

REF: STATE 010432

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN

1. FOR THE PURPOSES OF HER JANUARY 19 MEETING WITH UN HIGH
COMMISSIONER HARTLING, ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN MIGHT,AMONG
OTHER ITEMS, RAISE THE FOLLOWING POINTS.

2. IN WELCOMING HARTLING AS THE NEWLY ELECTED UNHCR AN
EXPRESSION OF OUR STRONG DESIRE FOR A CLOSE, COOPERATIVE
AND CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.
WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS FEBRUARY VISIT TO WASHINGTON
AND EFFORTS ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY TO ARRANGE FOR AN
INTERESTING AND BUSY SCHEDULE AND FOR APPOINTMENTS AT THE
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HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL. HARTLING'S PLANS TO VISIT AFRICA
AND EAST ASIA WE BELIEVE ARE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR
THOSE ARE THE AREAS OF THE GREATEST CONCENTRATION OF
CURRENT REFUGEE PROBLEMS.

3. THE U.S. CONTINUES TO ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO UNHCRS

PRIMARY FUNCTION OF PROVIDING INTERNATIONAL LEGAL PROTECTION TO REFUGEES. THE ESTABLISHMENT IN 1976 OF A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON THIS SUBJECT WAS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD, AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT DISCUSSIONS IN THIS BODY IN THE FUTURE WILL DEAL MORE WITH SPECIFIC PROBLEMS RATHER THAN GENERALITIES. WE URGE UNHCR TO CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN HIS EFFORTS IN THIS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY AND HOPE THAT HE WILL GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO REINFORCING HIS PROTECTION CAPABILITY IN LATIN AMERICA AND ASIA.

4. FROM THE U.S. POINT OF VIEW, ESPECIALLY INsofar AS CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT IS CONCERNED, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT UNHCR ACT PROMPTLY TO INTERNATIONALIZE ALL REFUGEE PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY NEW ONES. THE U.S. IS ALWAYS READY TO PROVIDE QUICK SUPPORT WHEN THERE ARE ASSURANCES THAT OTHER NATIONS ARE ALSO PREPARED TO STEP FORWARD AND TO ASSUME THEIR FAIR SHARE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY. CONCERN THAT THE U.S. CONTINUES TO ASSUME A DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE BURDEN REMAINS HIGH.

5. IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRECEDING POINT THERE IS A PARTICULAR NEED TO BROADEN THE FINANCIAL BASE OF SUPPORT AND TO EXPAND THE NUMBER OF NATIONS WILLING TO RECEIVE REFUGEES FOR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT.

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6. MS. DERIAN'S RECENT VISIT TO EAST ASIA WILL NO DOUBT BE SUBJECT OF MUCH DISCUSSION WITH HARTLING. CLEARLY THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR A LONG RANGE PLAN FOR DEALING WITH THE INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROBLEM AND THE UNHCR SHOULD TAKE THE LEADERSHIP IN ITS FORMULATION.

WE BELIEVE YOU MAY ALSO WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS AMONG OTHERS:

A) INTERNATIONAL RESETTLEMENT OFFERS FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES - IN ORDER TO MAKE PROGRESS WITH THE CONGRESS ON A LONG-RANGE POLICY FOR ACCEPTING INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, WE CLEARLY HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY REMAINS ACTIVE IN PROVIDING PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. SINCE THE EVACUATION OF PHNOM PENH AND SAIGON AND THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH WHEN THE U.S. TOOK ABOUT 130,000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, THE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE LED BY A STRONG FRENCH EFFORT HAS BEEN TO TAKE IN ALMOST 60,000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES WHILE THE U.S. ACCEPTED AN ADDITIONAL 30,000. THIS INTERNATIONAL RECORD IS NOT SO IMPRESSIVE AS THE NUMBERS MIGHT SUGGEST WHEN THE OVERALL REQUIREMENT IS

CONSIDERED. IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO AUGMENT THE

STRONG CONTINUING EFFORTS OF THE FRENCH, AUSTRALIANS AND CANADIANS AND TO OBTAIN QUOTAS FOR INDOCHINESE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. YOU MAY WISH TO SOLICIT UNHCR VIEWS ON MOST LIKELY TARGET COUNTRIES STRESSING NEED TO MOUNT A SPECIAL CAMPAIGN. FINALLY, THE UNHCR SHOULD AGAIN TAKE THE INITIATIVE WITH THE THAI GOVERNMENT TO PLAN FOR THE LOCAL SETTLEMENT OF THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN THAILAND ON A PERMANENT BASIS.

B) SINGAPORE TRANSIT CENTER - NOW THAT WE HAVE APPROACHED PM LEE ON QUESTION OF SINGAPORE TRANSIT CENTER, UNHCR SHOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT FOR PER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MISSION TO OPEN SMALL CENTER WITHOUT EXPLICIT ADVANCE GUARANTEES. YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO SEEK UNHCR VIEWS ON QUESTION OF UNHCR TRYING TO SOLICIT ADVANCE GUARANTEES OF PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT SINCE THAT WOULD BE INDUCEMENT MOST LIKELY TO PERSUADE SINGAPORE TO OPEN CENTER.

C) FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNHCR FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES - YOU SHOULD STRESS TO UNHCR WIDER FUNDING SUPPORT IS NEEDED FOR CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES AND THE TRANSPORT OF INDOCHINESE TO COUNTRIES OF PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT. FUNDS THIS YEAR ARE APT TO RUN SHORT. WE BELIEVE THAT THE JAPANESE SHOULD MAKE A PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO BE FORTHCOMING IN OFFERING PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT TO VERY MANY INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. THE U.S. WILL BE WILLING TO MAKE AN APPROACH TO THE JAPANESE TO BACK-UP THE UNHCR REQUEST.

D) UNHCR CONFERENCE ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES - THE UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE IN KUALA LUMPUR, SAMPAKUMAR, HAS CALLED A JANUARY 30 MEETING IN KUALA LUMPUR OF ABOUT A DOZEN REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNTRIES WHICH MIGHT CONTINUE OFFERS OF PERMANENT ASYLUM FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. WE BELIEVE THAT YOU SHOULD REQUEST THE UNHCR TO SEND A HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE TO CHAIR THE MEETING. THIS HAS ALREADY BEEN PROPOSED TO THE UNHCR BY US MISSION GENEVA EARLIER THIS WEEK; WE BELIEVE YOU SHOULD FOLLOW-UP.

7. WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED THAT WITHIN THE UNHCR'S TOTAL PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE PRESENTATION OF IT, THERE IS AN OVERLAP IN THE JUSTIFICATION OF RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR GENERAL (REGULAR) ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES. SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THIS AREA, BUT WE BELIEVE THERE CAN BE A SHARPER DISTINCTION DRAWN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BETWEEN THESE TWO PARTS OF THE TOTAL. WE BELIEVE THAT A
GREATER SHIFT OF REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES
(AS DISTINCT FROM DISPLACED PERSONS) TO THE GENERAL
PROGRAM WOULD GENERATE WIDER INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT IN THE

FORM OF INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS.

8. IT MIGHT ALSO BE USEFUL TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT WITH
A NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER WORKING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN HIS
OFFICE AND STAFF AND THE ICEM DYRECTOR AND STAFF COULD BE
IMPROVED AND PRODUCE MORE EFFECTIVE RESULTS IN THE AREA OF
REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT.

9. MS. DERIAN MAY WISH TO DRAW ON REFTTEL IN DISCUSSING
UNHCR'S FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. CHRISTOPHER

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